GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1028
ANSWERED ON:20.08.2007
GEOGRAPHICAL-INDICATOR MARK FOR BASMATI
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the joint bid by the Government of India and Pakistan to seek joint Geographical Indicator (GI) mark for Basmati seems to be receding fast due to disputes between traders of the two countries;

(b) if so, the main points of concern of traders of both the countries;

(c) whether there are also difference of opinion between his Ministry and Ministry of Commerce in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to resolve the issues involved in order to make a joint bid for GI mark for Basmati?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a)to(d): No dispute between the traders of the two countries on joint registration of Basmati as a Geographical Indicator (GI) by India and Pakistan has come to the notice of this Ministry. Ministry of Agriculture endorses the view that both India and Pakistan should take action for joint registration of basmati rice as a Geographical Indicator in the interest of the farmers. In this regard there is no difference of opinion between Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Commerce.

(e): An MoU was signed in 2004 between the Rice Exporters` Association of Pakistan and the All India Rice Exporters` Association for mutual cooperation, including on Basmati GI. During the India-Pakistan Commerce Secretary level talks on Economic and Commercial Cooperation held in New Delhi on 31st July − 1st August, 2007, the issue relating to joint registration of basmati rice as GI was, inter alia, discussed. India has already set up a Working Group for joint registration of Basmati rice as GI.